



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Moses' Death

Deuteronomy 34

October 14, 2018 10:30 Service of the Word

Moses has completed his task of leading the people of Israel through the wilderness and to the Promised Land. But here Moses' journey stops. Joshua, a long-time leader and aid to Moses, takes over and leads the people the final part of the journey. The Bible tells us God will not let Moses do that part because of a sin he committed years before. The sin itself seems trivial, but in fact it is not. We'll explore that today as well as the way leadership after Moses will function.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
(*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*)

P: Source of all life,

C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Better Is One Day
(*For music turn to Hymn 83 in the Songbook binder*)

**1. How lovely is Your dwelling place
O Lord Almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings**

Chorus 1

**Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere**

**2. One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty**

**To find You in the place
Your glory dwells**

Chorus 1

**Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere**

Misc 1 (BRIDGE)

**My heart and flesh cry out for You
The living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You to You**

Misc 2 (ENDING)

**Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere
Better is one day better is one day
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere**

Text and music by Matt Redman; Copyright 1995 Thankyou Music; CCLI #1097451

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Dialog (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Numbers 27:12-23

The Lord said to Moses, “Go up this mountain of the Abarim range, and see the land that I have given to the Israelites. ¹³When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, ¹⁴because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled with me. You did not show my holiness before their eyes at the waters.” (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.)

¹⁵Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, ¹⁶“Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint someone over the congregation ¹⁷who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep without a shepherd.” ¹⁸So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand upon him; ¹⁹have him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. ²⁰You shall give him some of your authority, so that all the congregation of the Israelites may obey. ²¹But he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the decision of the Urim before the Lord; at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the Israelites with him, the whole congregation.” ²²So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation; ²³he laid his hands on him and commissioned him—as the Lord had directed through Moses.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 103 (*read responsively*)

A: My soul, bless the Lord,
bless God’s holy name!

**C: My soul, bless the Lord,
hold dear all God's gifts!**

A: Bless God, who forgives your sin
and heals every illness,

**C: who snatches you from death
and enfolds you with tender care,**

A: who fills your life with richness
and gives you an eagle's strength.

**C: The Lord, who works justice
and defends the oppressed,**

A: teaches Moses and Israel
divine ways and deeds.

**C: The Lord is tender and caring,
slow to anger, rich in love.**

A: God will not accuse us long,
nor bring our sins to trial,

**C: nor exact from us in kind
what our sins deserve.**

A: As high as heaven above earth,
so great is God's love for believers.
As far as east from west,
so God removes our sins.

**C: As tender as father to child,
so gentle is God to believers.
The Lord knows how we are made,
remembers we are dust.**

A: Our days pass by like grass,
our prime like a flower in bloom.

**C: A wind comes, the flower goes,
empty now its place.**

A: God's love is from all ages,
God's justice beyond all time
for believers of each generation:

**C: those who keep the covenant,
who take care to live the law.**

A: The Lord reigns from heaven,
rules over all there is.

**C: Bless the Lord, you angels,
strong and quick to obey,
attending to God's word.**

A: Bless the Lord, you powers,

eager to serve God's will.

**C: Bless the Lord, you creatures,
everywhere under God's rule.
My soul, bless the Lord!**

Second Reading Deuteronomy 34

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.”

⁵Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. ⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. ¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight
(For music turn to Hymn 675 in the Blue Hymnal)

1. **We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e’re spoke:
“My peace be with you here.”**
2. **We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, “My Lord and God!”**
3. **Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:**
4. **And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.**

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.; Music: Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. With one Voice, 1995. Arr. copyright Augsburg Fortress 1995

Apostles’ Creed

A: We confirm our faith with the Apostles’ Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.**

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† THANKSGIVING †

Offering & Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving *As the offering is brought forward the congregation sings:*

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart,

**Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray: God of life,

C: you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

A: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

‡ SENDING ‡

Blessing

P: God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus the Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn In the Secret

(For music turn to Hymn 18 in the Songbook binder)

- 1. In the secret, in the quiet place,
In the stillness You are there.
In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait
Only for You, 'cause I want to know You more.**

Refrain **I want to know You. I want to hear Your voice.
I want to know You more.
I want to touch You. I want to see Your face.
I want to know You more.**

- 2. I am reaching for the highest goal
That I might receive the prize.
Pressing onward, pushing ev'ry hindrance aside,
Out of my way, 'cause I want to know You more. *Refrain***

- 3. (*Repeat Verse 1*)**

Text and music: Andy Park, Copyright 1995 Mercy/Vinyard Publishing, CCLI #1810119

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Don't you just hate it, how Yahweh is always right? Talk about creative control!

BLESSINGS
& CURSES?
SOMETIMES
GOD CAN BE
SO
JUDGMENTAL!



BUT IT'S
FOR
ISRAEL'S
PROTECTION.

)



THERE ARE LOTS OF
WAYS THEY CAN DIE,
BUT ONLY ONE WAY
THEY CAN REALLY
LIVE.



SEEMS TO ME
HE SHOULD
HAVE GIVEN
THEM MORE
OF A SURE
THING THEN!



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Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Phyllis and Dick Henderson
Acolyte	Abbie Bullwinkle
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Babette Huber and Nancy Pape
Coffee Hour	Adele Garvey

Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 21, 2018

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Olivia DeLeon
Altar Care	Sally Mansfield
Communion Assistants	Gary Boisseau and Rob Stroup
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	Julie and Nic Stuart

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